

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 AID-20 SSO-00 RSR-01 NIC-01 /137 W

----- 112238

R 191017 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9463

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEHBJCSY WARSAW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR HU

SUBJECT: HUNGARY AND ICCS

1. SUMMARY. ON PROPOSAL OF POLITICAL COMMITTEE, CENTRAL COMMITTEE (CC) OF HUNGARIAN SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY (HSWP) MET APRIL 18 IN BUDAPEST TO "DISCUSS TIMELY INTERNATIONAL AS WELL AS DOMESTIC POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC QUESTIONS". WE CAN READILY ASSUME THAT AMONG "TIMELY INTERNATIONAL QUESTIONS" DISCUSSED WAS ICCS. SEEMS EQUALLY LIKELY THAT VISIT OF DEPUTY FONMIN MARJAI TO POLAND, PRESUMABLY TO COMPARE NOTES AND COORDINATE POSITIONS, WAS ONE OF PRELIMINARIES TO CC SESSION. HUNGARIAN PRESS NOW ATTACKING GAUVIN OPENLY AS OBSTRUCTIONIST. END SUMMARY.

2. RE ICCS, HUNGARIAN PRESS NOW BEGINNING TO SAY PUBLICLY WHAT IT HAS BEEN SAYING PRIVATELY ABOUT CANADIAN OBSTRUCTIONISM IN ICCS, ZEROING IN PARTICULARLY ON HEAD OF CONTINGENT, GAUVIN. MTI APRIL 18 CARRIED VNA NEWS DISPATCH FROM HANOI DATED APRIL 17 QUOTING GAUVIN STATE-
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MENT THAT " IT CAN BE JUSTLY SURMIZED THAT NINE PASSENGERS ABOARD HELICOPTER LOST THEIR LIVES BECAUSE OF TROOPS WHOSE PRESENCE IN VIETNAM IS NOT PROVIDED FOR IN PARIS AGREEMENT." DISPATCH GOES ON TO SAY THAT AS SEQUEL TO THIS STATEMENT GAUVIN EXPRESSED SUSPICION THAT AIRCRAFT WRECKAGE IN QUESTION HAD BEEN REMOVED FROM SCENE OF CRASH AND THAT SURVIVING PERSONNEL WERE " FORCED TO SIGN PROTOCOL." VNA REPORTS THAT ICCS GROUP HAS INVESTIGATED CRASH AT LE TON AND ESTABLISHED THAT HELICOPTER DIGRESSED FROM DESIGNATED AIR LANE AND THAT CRASH OCCURRED 50 KILOMETERS FROM HUONG HOA. VNA CHARGES THAT GAUVIN HAS SHOWN COMPLETE LACK OF COURTESY, HAS REPEATEDLY MADE STATEMENTS CONTRARY TO TRUTH, AND CLAIMS HE LACKS OBJECTIVITY AND MAY BE ACTING IN BAD FAITH. VNA DISPATCH ASSERTS THAT US AND SAIGON GOVERNMENTS " HAVE USED ACCIDENT AS EXCUSE TO SLANDER PRG AND DRV IN ATTEMPT TO COVER THEIR OWN SERIOUS AND REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF PARIS AGREEMENT." VNA DISPATCH CONCLUDES WITH EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT GAUVIN HENCEFORTH WILL SHOW " CORRECT ATTITUDE REQUIRED BY CHARGE ENTRUSTED TO HIM".

3. MEANWHILE, AFTER DELAYED ANNOUNCEMENT OF " ACCIDENTALLY" DOWNING OF ICCS HELICOPTER (BUDAPEST 0849) HUNGARIAN PRESS HAS REMAINED VIRTUALLY SILENT. WHENEVER INCIDENT IS MENTIONED, HOWEVER, IT IS REFERRED TO AS AN " ACCIDENT". PRESS TREATMENT INDICATIVE OF CONTINUED HUNGARIAN PERSISTENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO PROVE THAT HELICOPTER CRASH CAUSED BY SOME KIND OF ACCIDENT RATHER THAN FROM GUN OR ROCKET FIRE.

4. MANY HUNGARIANS HERE, ALERT TO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS, ARE LAUGHING AT ABSURDITY OF GOH POSITION, PARTICULARLY NOTING THE TIME GAP BETWEEN THE ACTUAL CRASH AND MTI COMMUNIQUE MENTIONED ABOVE. THEY CITE IN PARTICULAR ABSURDITY OF HUNGARIAN ATTEMPTS TO ASSUME SUCH A LINE WHEN HUNGARIANS BY THE THOUSANDS ARE ABLE TO HEAR OF INCIDENT FROM WESTERN PRESS AND RADIO ACCOUNTS.
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